



International Office



*** See English Version below ***

Liebe Mitarbeitende der Universität

Schon wieder neigt sich ein Jahr zu Ende und für mich ist die Zeit gekommen, einen neuen Lebensabschnitt zu beginnen mit meiner Pensionierung Ende November 2023. Zeit um nochmals einen Blick zurück zu werfen auf die vielen Jahre in der Selbstorganisation der Universität. Es gab viele erfolgreiche Meilensteine, von der Einführung der gestuften Studiengänge Bachelor und Master in der Medizin als Studiendekanin der Medizinischen Fakultät über mannigfaltige Weichenstellungen als Vizerektorin für Lehre und 2014 die Neugründung und Übernahme der Leitung des International Office. Dabei wurde Student Exchange von den Student Services herausgelöst, International Relations kam von Kommunikation und Marketing ins Team und der Bereich Welcome Center wurde neu installiert. Wir sind zu einem kompetenten und wirkungsorientierten Team zusammengewachsen und feiern 2024 das 10-jährige Bestehen. Es war mir (und ist mir bis zum letzten Arbeitstag) eine Freude, dieses Team leiten zu dürfen und es erfüllt mich mit grosser Dankbarkeit. In diesem Sinne schaue ich stolz und zuversichtlich in die Zukunft, da ich die Leitung in kompetente Hände übergeben kann.

Frau Dr. Tanja Popović wird meine Nachfolge antreten und ich wünsche Ihr ebenso viel Freude und Erfolg für diese neuen Aufgaben und Herausforderung. Ich selbst werde nach 33 Jahren in Basel wieder in meine Heimat zu meiner grossen Familie zurück übersiedeln.

Mit besten Grüssen

Hedwig J. Kaiser
Head International Office
www.unibas.ch/intoffice

Dieser Newsletter richtet sich an alle Unimitarbeitenden; um möglichst alle zu erreichen, halten wir ihn weitgehend auf Englisch.

Dear Employees of the University

The end of the year is already approaching yet again, and for me the time has come to begin a new part of my life with my retirement at the end of November 2023, a time to look back again at my many years in university administration. There have been many successful milestones, from introducing the progressive study programs for a bachelor's and master's in medicine as the dean of studies of the Faculty of Medicine to diverse new directions as the vice president for education and the reestablishing of the International Office as its head in 2014. This entailed taking over student exchange from Student Services, bringing International Relations into our team from Communication and Marketing, and initiating the Welcome Center. Together we have grown into a competent and effective team, and in 2024 we will celebrate our ten-year anniversary. It has been a joy to have had the opportunity to lead this team, and it also fills me with gratitude. In this sense, I can look proudly and confidently at the future, since I am passing the leadership role into competent hands. Dr. Tanja Popović will succeed me, and I wish her joy and success in the new tasks and challenges.

I myself will move back to my home to my large family after thirty-three years in Basel.

Best wishes,

Hedwig J. Kaiser
Head International Office
www.unibas.ch/intoffice

This newsletter is aimed at all university members; in order to reach as many as possible, we publish it largely in English.



Welcome & Euraxess Center / Student Exchange
Intercultural Competencies 1

Awarding of the first Certificate of Intercultural Competence (Zertifikat interkulturelle Kompetenz*)

Cansu Sahinbay, a decentralized human-resources and finance professional in the Department of Biomedicine and the Department of Ancient Civilizations, was awarded the first Certificate of Intercultural Competence by the vice president of research, Prof. Dr. Torsten Schwede, and the head of the International Office, Prof. Dr. Hedwig J. Kaiser, in a small ceremony on 23 October; with flowers and a cross-border Museums-Pass-Musées: Warm congratulations to our first graduate, Cansu Sahinbay!

The trilingual certificate depicts the EUCOR logo and attests a minimum of seventy credit hours in the fields of intercultural training, international mobility, foreign-language skills, and, if applicable as in this case, work performance in an intercultural context. Cansu Sahinbay, who grew up as a Swiss-Turkish national in a multicultural neighborhood in Pratteln (Baselland), has a background as a work and personnel psychologist (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, FHNW). Working with the University of Basel since 2019, she completed the Certificate of Intercultural Competence in significantly less than the foreseen two to three years. Her curriculum within the certificate program included hands-on courses such as "Dealing with Conflicts" (offered by Leadership & Development) and "English for Work B2/C1" (offered by the Language Center). A highlight for her was a one-week staff exchange at the Freie Universität in Berlin last June, funded by the Swiss-European Mobility Program (SEMP), where she enjoyed professional dialogue with colleagues from universities all over Europe and felt inspired by discussions of best practices and challenges and by the diverse, content-packed program offered by the FU Berlin, one of Germany's "universities of excellence." In a conversation with the International Office team, Cansu Sahinbay reflected on her intercultural training:

International Office: What was your motivation to complete the certificate?

Cansu Sahinbay: I was excited about the potential synergies when coming together with colleagues from other units and with other roles, discussing cultural aspects. I generally enjoy the training offers for university staff, and from a professional point of view even more so, as situations can get pretty complex, so constant learning is essential. During the certificate program you learn a lot, topped off by mutual insights and sharing experiences. Last but not least, my educational background as well as my personal interests and background made me want to deal more systematically with intercultural aspects at work.

International Office: Did you have an epiphany moment?

Cansu Sahinbay: Cultural aspects have an extremely strong influence on communication; it influences how we interact and work together, how we consciously or unconsciously deal with each other and so on. Getting a better understanding of these cultural aspects and learning not to take them personally, and to act instead in a professional way was my personal epiphany moment.

International Office: Would you recommend the program to colleagues? And if yes, why?

Cansu Sahinbay: I definitely would! It is exciting and very rewarding to become aware of our own individual mindset, to get a better understanding of it, and to incorporate this, together with new insights, back into one's work. Also, it is important to enlarge your network throughout the university, to share professional perspectives with colleagues for a better understanding of the overall view and for better interactions as a final result.

* For the moment, the certificate is only offered in German due to limited financial resources.

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Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/de/Universitaet/Administration-Services/Vizektorat-Forschung/>

Student Exchange / Welcome & Euraxess Center
Intercultural Competencies 2

Iceberg, Honeymoon, and a Hidden Curriculum? Tips and Tricks for Your Study Abroad in Switzerland

On 20 October, we held the second edition of our intercultural workshop for international (exchange) students. We introduced eighteen participants to various cultural models and theories, discussed written and unwritten rules as well as standards and expectations within and outside academia, and explored the concept of the "hidden curriculum." Students reflected on their roles and experiences as international students and on intercultural situations at our university. Lively discussions and networking across the disciplines made the time just fly by, and the students said they gained valuable insights for their exchange semester or degree studies in Basel. In the evening, we were all rewarded with a delicious and very Swiss apéro riche and a drawing for some typical Swiss and local prizes, like a pocket cheese-fondue set and a fluffy UniSport towel.



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Student Exchange

EAIE—European Association for International Education

At the beginning of June 2023, the Federal Council began deliberations regarding the Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation 2025–2028 (ERI Dispatch). The planned expenditures amount to CHF 29.7 billion. The deliberations will run until mid-September 2023.

There are three important international associations for higher education: [APAIE](#) (Asia-Pacific Association for International Education), [NAFSA](#) (Association of International Educators), and the [EAIE](#) (European Association for International Education). Their conferences bring together experts in the fields of internationalization and mobility in higher-education institutions from all over the world. At these conferences, Swiss higher-education institutions can establish new partnerships, strengthen existing collaborations, and benefit from the expertise of various institutions.

Members from the International Office and other departments at the University of Basel attended this year's EAIE in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The EAIE provides an excellent opportunity and platform to increase the university's visibility, strengthen its international ties, and remain competitive on the international stage. It is a nonprofit, member-led organization serving individuals actively involved in the internationalization process of their institutions through training, conferences, research, knowledge acquisition, and sharing best practices. The annual conference is the association's primary event for bringing together professionals to discuss the latest trends and developments in international education. The conference is the largest international higher-education event of its kind in Europe and is hosted in a different European city each year. The University of Basel and the city of Basel hosted the

18th Annual EAIE Conference in 2006.

Attending this year's conference in Rotterdam was especially useful and important since the University of Basel and all other Swiss institutions of higher education can only participate in EU programs such as Erasmus+ as a third country, which means they have very limited and restricted access to the EU programs. At the conference, the International Office was able to:

- promote the Swiss–European Mobility Programme (SEMP) for student exchange and lecturer and staff mobility;
- reaffirm the funding of financial support, including for partners' mobility;
- strengthen partnerships; and
- support the cooperation of European universities.

European higher education is going digital with EWP—Erasmus without Paper. Although Swiss higher-education institutions officially do not have direct access to EWP, most of the University of Basel's Erasmus/SEMP agreements are now also set up and signed digitally through the [partner database](#). The conference provided a useful platform for extending agreements and discussing new digital means for cooperation.

Many partners and partner networks also meet at the conference. As a member of the [Utrecht Network](#), the International Office spoke with representatives of the North American partner network [MAUI](#), the Brazilian network [Reari-RJ](#), and the Australian–European network [AEN](#). MAUI and AEN are important for student exchanges at the University of Basel. They are the only possibilities for student exchanges in North America and Australia since the University of Basel does not have any exchange agreements on these continents.

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Link to the upcoming Conference in Toulouse 2024:
<https://www.eaie.org/toulouse.html>

Event

International Conference in Basel

CEREPS Annual Conference, 12 – 15 October 2023, hosted by the Department of Sport, Exercise and Health (DSBG)

17 November 2023

A total of forty-two sports scientists from seventeen countries came together at the DSBG in Basel to participate in this year's CEREPS conference.

For three days, sports scientists engaged with various international organizations' and experts' views on how to enhance physical activity.

The sports-science organizations AIESEP, FIEPS, EUPEA, ARIS, and CEREPS—all of which deal with the topic of the conference—were present. In addition, three UNESCO professors and three representatives from countries in the Global South—South Africa, Namibia, and Mauritius—were there. Different researchers presented individual talks on the conference topic, and the whole program was supported by the foundational keynotes "Fit for Life Program" by Dr. Nancy McLennan of UNESCO and "Enhancement of Physical Activity in Children and Youth: The Perspective and Contributions of the WHO" by Prof. Fiona Bull of the WHO.

In addition to a visit to the Stanserhorn with ideal late-summer weather and an impressive stay in the Swiss mountains, alpenhorn players made sure the conference guests felt like they really had arrived in Switzerland on the first evening. In the historical location of the Haus zum holden Dolder, a musical duo briefly transplanted the conference participants to the sixteenth century, and Magrée, the master of magic, was in peak form and made the audience laugh and stare in amazement, leading to a fantastic, convivial time together. The DSBG thanks all the participants for undertaking their long journeys to exchange their research at the 2023 CEREPS Conference at the University of Basel and looks forward to seeing them again in the future.

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Link: https://dsbg.unibas.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/dsbg/Veranstaltungen/CEREPS_Conference_Basel_2023.pdf

Welcome & Euraxess Center

New Euraxess Smart Talks episode: A podcast on researching in Switzerland

EURAXESS Smart Talks

Switzerland - A great place to be a researcher!

OCTOBER 31, 2023 ERA TALENT PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION SEASON 2 EPISODE 4



Contact: tanja.popovic@unibas.ch

Link: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1998474/13878981-switzerland-a-great-place-to-be-a-researcher>

Anniversaries

Warm congratulations to our colleagues on the following anniversaries:

- 15 years Center for Philanthropic Studies CEPS
- 20 years Language Center
- 25 years Diversity & Inclusion
- 25 years Jewish Studies
- 30 years Institute for European Global Studies
- 100 years Slavic Studies

We look forward to working with you to deepen and advance the internationalization of our university. The key elements of internationalization include diversity and competences in culture, languages, politics, law, and economics, that is, in the fields our colleagues and their units are experts in.

Best wishes!

About this Newsletter

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